Binbougami no Susume

Poor God's Advice

by Wazawa Kiri

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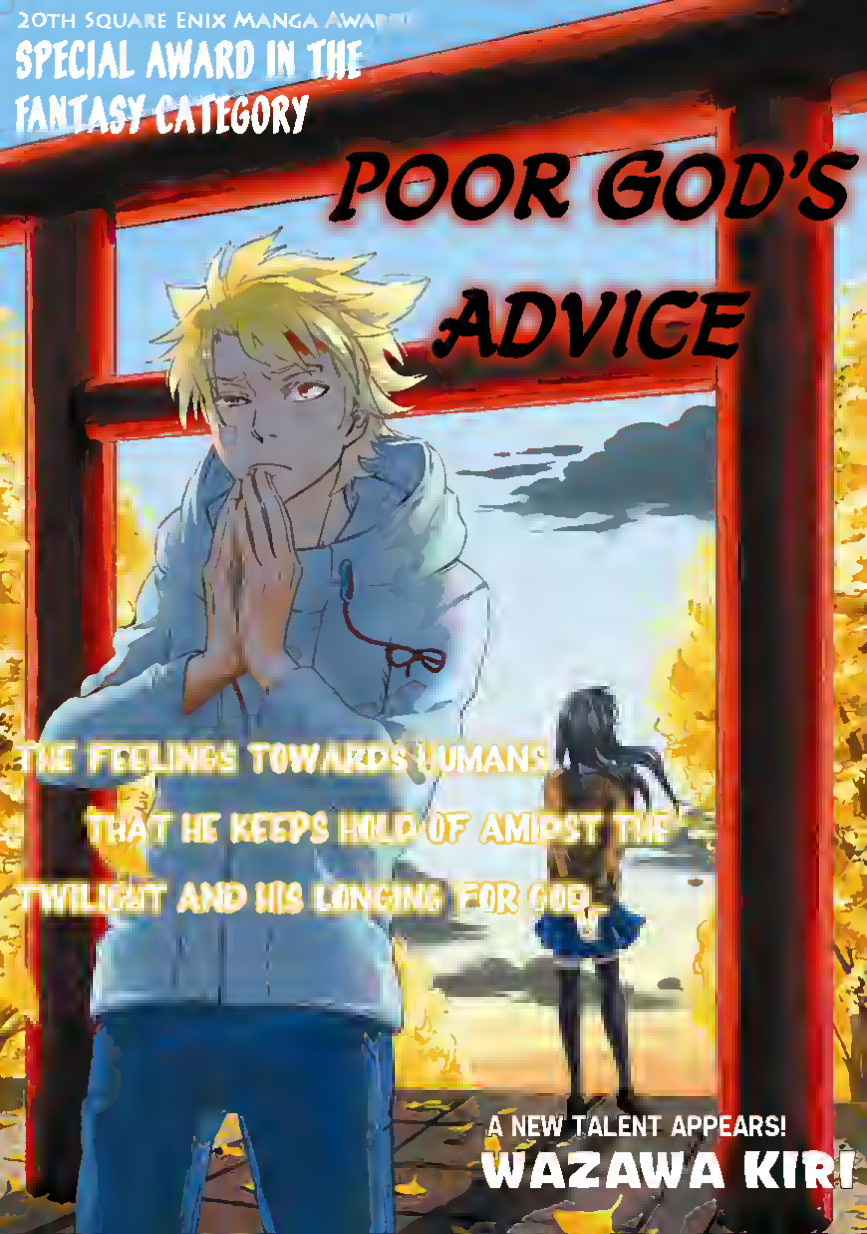
20TH SQUARE ENIX MANGA AWARD

SPECIAL AWARD IN THE FANTASY CATEGORY

POOR GOD'S ADVICE



A NEW TALENT APPEARS!

WAZAWA KIRI

Dear Customers,

This shop will be closing in October.

Thank you for your patronage of 35 years.

-Store Owner

A YOUNG BOY LINGERS IN A TOWN THAT IS EXPERIENCING A RECESSION...

TIMES ARE CHANGING
OF COURSE THAT HUGE DEPARTMENT STORE IN THE NEIGHBOURING TOWN HAS MADE THIS PLACE LESS POPULAR.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED
THIS AREA IS FULL OF SHUTTERED STREETS TOO, ISN'T IT?
YOU CAN SEE IT IN THE SMALL MOUNTAIN OVER THERE
THERE'S A SHRINE HALFWAY UP THE MOUNTAIN
Hmm
IN THAT PLACE ...
OH YEAH, YOU WOULDN'T KNOW BECAUSE YOU WEREN'T BORN HERE
EVERYONE WHO WAS RAISED HERE KNOWS THE TALE.
THIS TOWN IS CURSED TOO
CURSED?
TWITCH
THAT SHRINE IS FOR THE WORSHIP OF
A POOR GOD.

CRASH
HE'S NOT A POOR GOD!
!?
Eek!
Dammit!!!
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT KIDS GET UP TO THESE DAYS
LET'S WALK OVER THERE
HUH...?
WHAT'S UP WITH THAT KID?!

cough
cough cough
cough

Cough
Cough
PLEASE BE PATIENT FOR A LITTLE WHILE MORE
GIN IS BUYING SOME MEDICINE NOW
MASTER, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
MASTER
GIN HAS RETURNED
HMM
BOW
PLEASE EXCUSE ME
Shut up!
Hand it over now!
SORRY!!
I M TERRIBLY LATE!!

slide
I BROUGHT THE MEDI-CINE,
MASTER.
cough
AH...
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE, GIN.

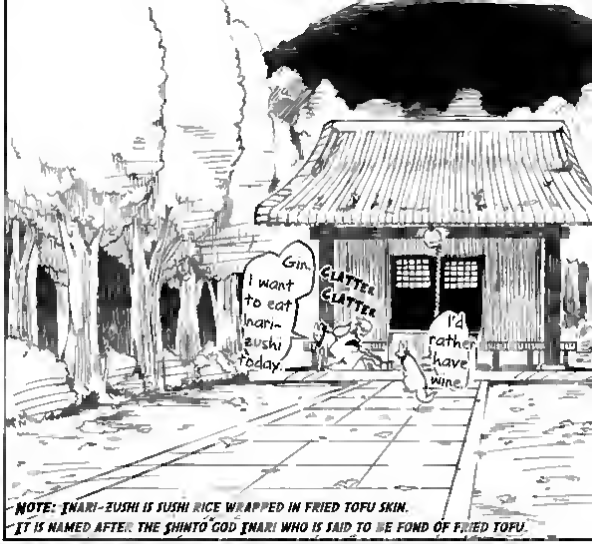
HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
HMM
I FEEL MUCH BETTER.
HMM
SO THEY HAVE A MIRACLE CURE LIKE THIS
VUFERIN
A cold?
I need medicine that's effective against fever and headaches!
It must be a cold
Will this be alright?
A cold.
TODAY, I BOUGHT MEDICINE THAT THE HUMANS SAID WORKS WELL.
I'M GLAD.
MINE?
BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT YOUR BODY
THANK YOU
THE AIR IN THIS WORLD IS UNCLEAN, SO PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOUR BODY

TAKING ON A HUMAN FORM IS QUITE TIRING, EVEN FOR A GOD.
YOUR BODY WON'T LAST AT THIS RATE
ON TOP OF THAT, ALTHOUGH GODS ARE FORBIDDEN FROM APPEARING IN FRONT OF HUMANS,
YOU'VE WALKED AMONGST THEM AGAIN AND AGAIN FOR MY SAKE
YOU CAME HERE TO TRAIN TO BECOME A GOD, BUT YOU'RE ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF ME INSTEAD.
CLANG
LET ME TAKE CARE OF YOU.
WHO LISTENED TO MY WISH TO BECOME A GOD.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE
I'M GOOD AT DISGUISING MYSELF AS A HUMAN
I WAS ORIGINALLY A FOX SPIRIT AFTER ALL.
IT'LL BE FINE
OH. SHE'S HERE AGAIN.
CLANG
CLANG

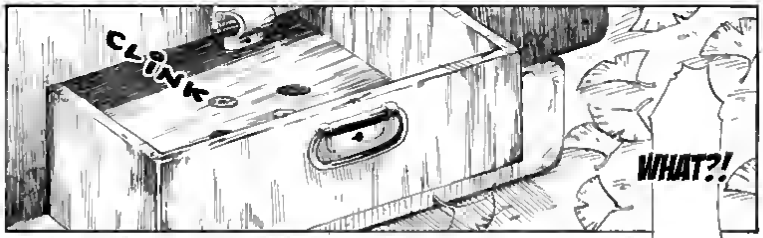
SHE COMES HERE EVERY DAY
BUT SHE HAS NEVER OFFERED ANY MONEY
SHE JUST PRAYS SHAMELESSLY
Beep
Hello, Takeshi-kun? ♥ Ah, yes! We'll see each other tomorrow ♥ Alright ♥ I'll be waiting!
BZZ
BZZ

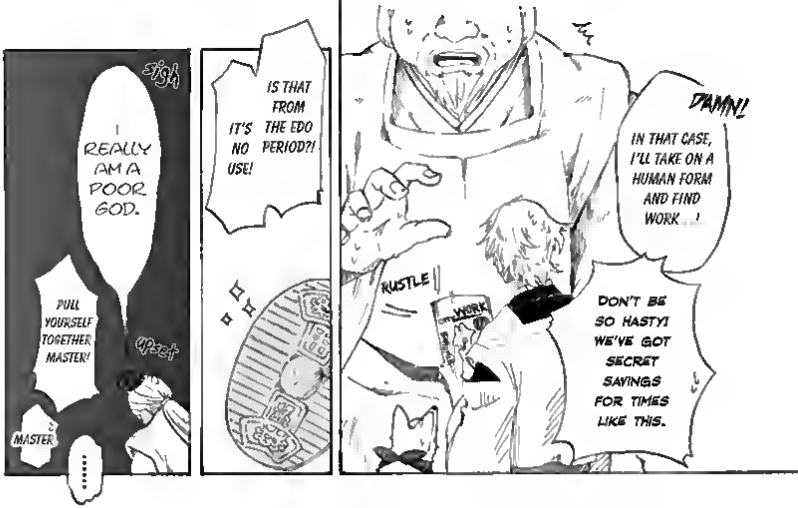
I JUST HATE THEM.
GIN, YOU'RE SO STRICT TOWARDS HUMANS.
Where shall we meet?
I'M NOT STRICT AT ALL.
YOU CURSED HUMANS
YOU ATE OUR CROPS
THUD
BAM
SMACK
THIEVING FOX!
I'LL... I'LL KILL YOU
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
pat
GIN.

Dear Customers,
The shop will be closing in October.
Thank you for your patronage of 35 years.
-Store Owner
TODAY, WHEN I WENT INTO TOWN, EVEN MORE SHOPS HAD GONE BANKRUPT.
I SEE...
MASTER HAS PROTECTED THE PEOPLE OF THIS TOWN FROM HUNGER FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS,
BUT WHEN CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED AND THE TOWN FLOURISHED, THE HUMANS FORGOT ABOUT YOU
AND WHEN THE TOWN FELL INTO DECLINE, YOU WERE TREATED LIKE A POOR GOD.
I'M FRUS-TRATED.
DON'T YOU FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO?
I SEE.
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T LET THAT FEELING TRAP YOU.
ALRIGHT...!



NOTE: INARI-ZUSHI IS SUSHI RICE WRAPPED IN FRIED TOFU SKIN.
IT IS NAMED AFTER THE SHINTO GOD INARI WHO IS SAID TO BE FOND OF FRIED TOFU.



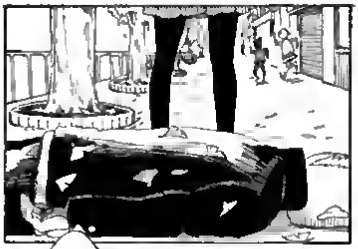

sigh
I REALLY AM A POOR GOD.
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, MASTER!
upset
MASTER
IS THAT FROM THE EDO PERIOD?!
IT'S NO USE!
DAMN!
IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE ON A HUMAN FORM AND FIND WORK...!
RUSTLE
DON'T BE SO HASTY! WE'VE GOT SECRET SAVINGS FOR TIMES LIKE THIS.

kyaa kyaa
WE SHOULD HAVE SOME OFFERINGS AT NEW YEAR.
THUD
BUT WHAT SHOULD WE DO UNTIL THEN?
Hey
Hey.
I SUPPOSE WE'LL HAVE TO SPEND LESS ON THE OFFERTORY WINE THIS MONTH
YEAH
HEY!
GRAB
MASTER...
HE WAS PRETTY DEPRESSED
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING TO MAKE UP FOR US BEING SHORT ON MONEY THIS MONTH!
Plod
Plod

LET GO OF ME, KID.
HUH?
YOU JUST BUMPED INTO ME!
YOU...
TURN
HUH? YOU WANNA FIGHT?
grab
YOU GOT SOME NERVE THERE, SHORTY!
SNAP
HE MUST HAVE BEEN FRIGHTENED BY YOUR STRENGTH! ♥
WHY'D YOU SUDDENLY GO QUIET?
?
Listen up, Gin! Do not ever start a fight with a human when you are in another form! Not ever! There'll be trouble if the other gods find out.
Ah!
hmph
hmph
upset
I'm sorry
LAST MONTH

HUH?!
HE MEANS YOUR MONEY, OF COURSE.
THIS PURSE IS SO UNCOOL!
GRAB
YOU IDIOT.
HEY
WELL, I'M NOT A DEMON.
I'LL LET YOU GO IF YOU SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT.
SHOW YOU WHAT I'VE GOT?
Hold on
Hold on
DON'T TOUCH IT! I TOLD YOU TO GIVE IT BACK!
Whoa.
THERE'S ONLY 205 YEN HERE.
SO USE-LESS.
WHAT ARE YOU, AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KID?
GIVE IT BACK!
Let me see
GRAB
HAVE AT LEAST 10,000 YEN NEXT TIME.
THUD
Hahaha
Hahaha
toss
IT'S NOT MUCH, BUT WE CAN BUY SOME JUICE WITH IT.
I'M GOING TO LET YOU OFF NOW CONSIDER YOUR-SELF LUCKY ♪

RUSTLE
WAIT.
THAT MONEY BELONGS TO MY MASTER.
!?
GIVE IT BACK.
THUMP
SNAP



I'VE DEFI-- NITELY EARNED MYSELF A LECTURE FROM MASTER
I did it again...

THANK GOODNESS EVERYTHING IS STILL HERE
sigh

YOU'RE A STRONG FIGHTER
!

THAT'S THE GIRL WHO
DOESN'T MAKE ANY OFFERINGS.

sparkle

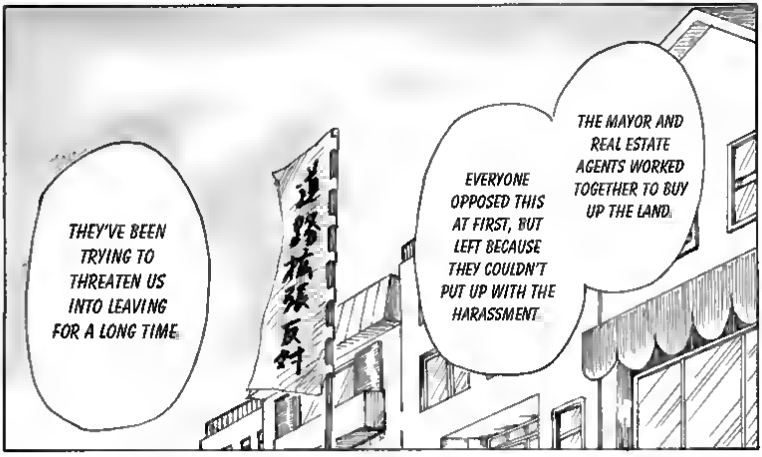
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, TAKESHI-KUN!
TAKE...?!
GRAB
HUH?!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO WORK TODAY.
Kisaragi Kikon
I WANT YOU TO CHASE THEM AWAY IF THEY COME
Hey!
YOU SEE, MY FAMILY'S SHOP IS BEING HASSLED BY A REAL ESTATE AGENT EVERY DAY
I HEARD YOU WERE THE STRONGEST FIGHTER IN TOWN, BUT YOU'RE BETTER THAN I THOUGHT!
Hey.

CLATTER
HEY! I'M NOT TAKESHI!
GRANDPA! I'VE BROUGHT THE BODYGUARD I TOLD YOU ABOUT YESTER-DAY...
CLATTER
AN.
!
WHAT'S WITH THIS GIRL?! THIS SHOP WAS OFFICIALLY PURCHASED!
YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
GIVE IT BACK!
AN, THAT'S ENOUGH
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT WHEN YOU'VE BEEN THREATENING OTHER PEOPLE?!

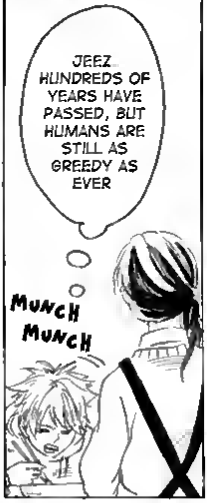
WHAT ARE YOU APOLOGIZING FOR? YOU TRIED YOUR BEST, AN
I'M SORRY, GRANDPA
HUH?! WHO ARE YOU THEN?
I'M GIN.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I'M NOT TAKESHI!
... BY THE WAY, WHO IS THAT LAD?
HUH?!
OH YEAH! SORRY, TAKESHI-KUN!
!
YOU CAN HAVE ANY-THING
THERE'S TEMPURA, SEAWEED, YAM, KAMA-AGE AND FRIED TOFU TOO
I SHOULDN'T INTERACT WITH HUMANS FOR MUCH LONGER THAN THIS
NO, I...
WILL YOU ACCEPT SOME FOOD AS AN APOLOGY?
ANYWAY, IT SEEMS THAT AN HAS CAUSED YOU SOME TROUBLE

NOTE: KAMA-AGE UDON IS NOODLES SERVED IN HOT WATER TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS SEASONINGS AND A DIPPING SAUCE.

IF YOU LIKE FRIED TOFU, SHALL I BRING SOME MORE?
OKAY!
How many years has it been?
FR..
FRIED TOFU!
munch munch
CLOSING A RESTAURANT THAT SERVES SUCH DELICIOUS FOOD IS A WASTE.
I want Master to try this too
I'LL BE INSIDE JUST CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE
I'M GLAD
hahaha
OKAY
AH, IT'S DELICIOUS!
munch munch
A HUGE DEPARTMENT STORE PROPOSED BY THE MAYOR WAS BUILT IN THE NEIGHBOURING TOWN
THEN THERE WAS A PLAN TO EXPAND THE ROADS AND CONSTRUCT NEW ESTABLISHMENTS
THIS PLACE USED TO BE SUCCESSFUL, BUT THE ECONOMY GOT WORSE AND IT WASN'T POPULAR ANYMORE.


THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO THREATEN US INTO LEAVING FOR A LONG TIME
EVERYONE OPPOSED THIS AT FIRST, BUT LEFT BECAUSE THEY COULDN'T PUT UP WITH THE HARASSMENT
THE MAYOR AND REAL ESTATE AGENTS WORKED TOGETHER TO BUY UP THE LAND
道路拡張反対

BUT...
I WAS THE ONE WHO WISHED FOR IT..


JEEZ HUNDREDS OF YEARS HAVE PASSED, BUT HUMANS ARE STILL AS GREEDY AS EVER
MUNCH MUNCH

?

!
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF UDON AND FRIED TOFU,
SO EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE.
ANY-WAY,
I'M SORRY FOR RUINING YOUR APPETITE WITH THIS CONVER-SATION.
Ahaha
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE,
GIN.

HMM...
GIN.
GIN!
YE...
YES!
JOLT
IT'S UNUSUAL TO SEE YOU LOOKING TIRED
YOUR TIREDNESS MUST HAVE BUILT UP GO AND REST NOW.
...I'M SORRY.
I SAID THAT I WANTED TO BECOME A GOD TO SEEK REVENGE ON HUMANS.
DOES SOMEONE LIKE ME HAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME A GOD?
.....
CAN I ASK A QUESTION, MASTER?
WHAT IS IT?

THE NATURAL ABILITY TO "LOVE HUMANS" IS.
THAT ISN'T IMPORTANT TO BECOMING A GOD.
IN THAT CASE,
THERE'S ALL THE MORE REASON FOR ME NOT TO BECOME A GOD.
CLATTER
OH.
SOMEONE IS VISITING LATE AT NIGHT.
!!

ARE THEY GOING TO STEAL THE OFFERINGS?!
COULD THIS BE WHY WE'VE HAD SO FEW OFFERINGS RECENTLY?
DAMN WHOEVER IS STEALING MASTER'S POSSESSIONS!
GO AND SCARE THEM A LITTLE, GIN
!
IT'S THAT GIRL FROM THE UDON RESTAURANT.
AH,
I SEE.

Yes.
I HEARD ABOUT IT FROM HER.
I'M ABLE TO HEAR PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS.
ABOUT THE GIRL AND HER RESTAURANT?
DID YOU ALREADY KNOW
SO THIS GIRL'S RESTAURANT REALLY IS GOING TO CLOSE?
NO, SHE CAME HERE TO APOLOGIZE TO ME.
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT WHAT SHE CAN DO TO MAKE SURE THE RESTAURANT DOESN'T CLOSE DOWN
SO SHE EAGERLY CAME HERE AND WISHED FOR THE RESTAURANT NOT TO CLOSE

APOLOGIZE?
WHAT DID SHE DO TO YOU?
SHE MISTOOK ME FOR A GOD OF POVERTY AND MADE A WISH.
IT WAS AROUND SIX MONTHS AGO THAT SHE CAME HERE WITH AN UNHAPPY LOOK ON HER FACE
SHE PROBABLY HAD A FIGHT WITH HER GRANDFATHER AND WANTED TO GET HER REVENGE
Is this the shrine where the poor god is worshipped?
That's right! It's perfect for a test of courage, isn't it?
SO SHE MADE A WISH.
I COULD HAVE GONE IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO HELP OUT AT THE RESTAURANT.
I see. Your grandpa's so strict.
Grandpa said, "If you've got time to play, then help out at the restaurant."
Why not?
Sorry. I can't go anymore.
Come around with me, An!

I'D BE ABLE TO HAVE A PART-TIME JOB OR DO CLUB ACTIVITIES AFTER CLASS,
AND HANG OUT WITH EVERYONE ON WEEKENDS.
IT'D BE BETTER
IF THE RESTAURANT CLOSED.
What are you wishing for?
What's wrong?

BEFORE LONG, THE RESTAURANT REALLY WAS GOING TO CLOSE DOWN
AND THE GIRL WAS CONVINCED THAT I HAD GRANTED HER WISH
A TYPICAL HUMAN.
WHAT A SELFISH WISH.

HOWEVER, ALL I COULD DO WAS WATCH OVER HER.
I REGRETTED NOT HAVING THE POWER TO HELP.
FROM THAT DAY ONWARDS, SHE WOULD COME TO APOLOGIZE EVERYDAY
AND SAY, "I'M SORRY I WASN'T REALLY WISHING FOR THAT."
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO WORRY, MASTER.
SHE GOT WHAT SHE DESERVED
I CAN'T FORGIVE HUMANS.
YOU REALLY ARE STRICT TOWARDS HUMANS, GIN.
sob

I TRULY HATE HUMANS.
I WAS KILLED BY HUMANS AND BECAME A DEMON.
GIN.
TAKE THE FORM OF A HUMAN?
THEN WHY DO YOU

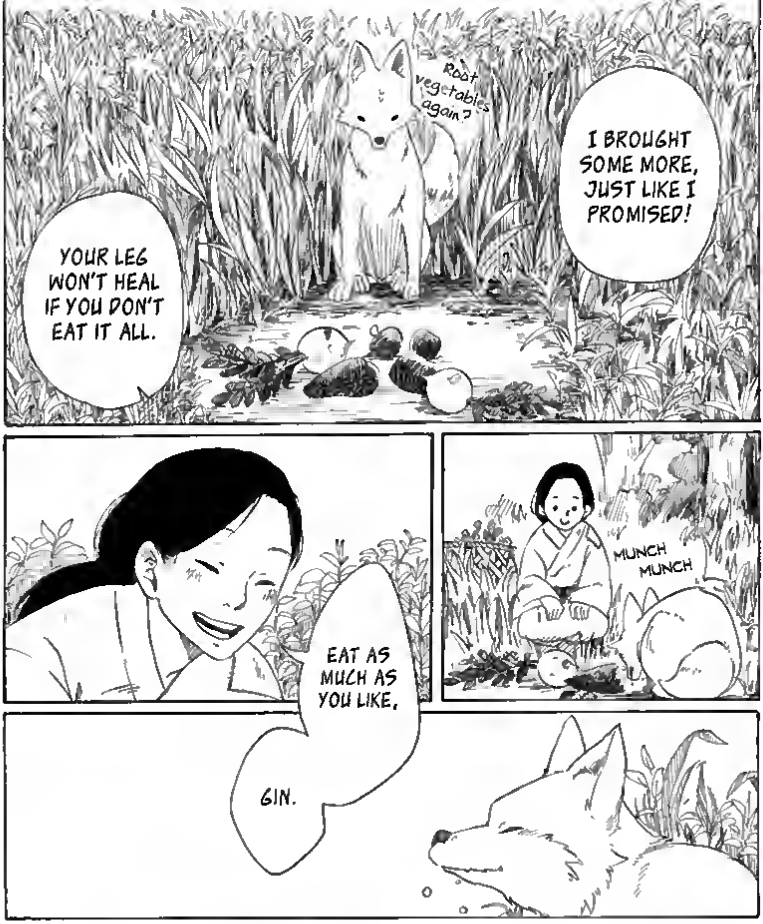
WHY...
I WAS SURE
I HATED

SINCE YOU WERE ORIGINALLY A FOX SPIRIT, WOULDN'T IT BE MORE NATURAL FOR YOU TO TAKE ON THE FORM OF A FOX LIKE THESE INARI-GAMI HERE?
SO WHY DO YOU TAKE THE FORM OF THE HUMANS YOU HATE SO MUCH?
.....

HUMANS...
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE!

!

THAT'S RIGHT. I USED TO LOVE HUMANS.
GRRR
A FOX CUB?
9ггг
WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID YOU GET SEPARATED FROM YOUR PARENTS?
AH, YOU CAN'T MOVE BECAUSE YOU HURT YOUR LEG?
HERE
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY
A
ROLL
EAT THIS
THEY'RE ALL WORM-EATEN AND MIS-SHAPEN,
BUT I'LL BRING YOU MORE NEXT TIME


I BROUGHT SOME MORE, JUST LIKE I PROMISED!
Root vegetables again?
YOUR LEG WON'T HEAL IF YOU DON'T EAT IT ALL.
MUNCH MUNCH
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU LIKE, GIN.

THANKS TO THAT, I MADE A COMPLETE RECOVERY AND WAS ABLE TO RUN.
I WANTED TO SHOW THAT TO THE GIRL, SO I WENT TO WHERE THE HUMANS LIVED
AND I GOT KILLED

ANGERED BY THAT, I FORGOT ALL ABOUT
THE GIRL'S WARMTH
reach
I WAS AFRAID AND SADDENED...!
THE HUMANS WHO HAD SHOWN ME KINDNESS WERE NOW HITTING AND TRAMPLING ON ME.

SAY, GIN.
DO YOU LIKE HUMANS?

NO.
EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL.
YES.
I SAID EXACTLY WHAT YOU TOLD ME TO SAY.
I WENT TO THAT UDON RESTAURANT TODAY
WHEN I TOLD HIM WE INTENDED TO PAY FOR THE GIRL'S UNIVERSITY FEES,
HE GAVE IN IMMEDIATELY.
I ONLY SAID WE "INTENDED TO" THOUGH.
IT WAS JUST A VERBAL PROMISE, AND THERE'S NO NEED TO ACTUALLY PAY.
YES. WELL THEN, I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.
GOODBYE.
Beep

IT REALLY IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME
TO LIKE ALL HUMAN BEINGS.
!
DO YOU NEED SOMETHING?
YES
I'VE COME TO TAKE THE DOCUMENTS YOU GOT BY DECEIVING PEOPLE
HE'S ONE OF THE PROTESTORS?
IT'S AWFUL OF YOU TO SAY I TRICKED THEM. I TOOK THE DOCUMENTS FAIRLY
D-DON'T COME ANY CLOSER! I'LL CALL THE POLICE!
THAT'D BE PERFECT
IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE THEM TO ME,
THEN I DON'T HAVE A CHOICE

WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE, YOU CAN TELL THEM EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED UNTIL NOW.
YOU'RE ACTING ALL ARROGANT. JUST WHO ARE YOU?!
I'M A "POOR GOD".
Huh?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Beep
AH! HELLO! IS THIS THE POLICE?
A STRANGE GUY HAS ME CORNERED RIGHT NOW...
RUMBLE
RUMBLE

HE'S BACK
HE'S HERE, HE'S HERE!
GYAA
GIN HAS RETURNED
MASTER
DID YOUR FIRST TASK AS A GOD GO WELL?
WELCOME BACK, GIN
haha
I MIGHT HAVE OVERDONE IT A LITTLE

YOU APPEARED IN THE FORM OF A FOX.
Who knows... He said some nonsense like being cursed by a poor god and a giant fox appearing.
What on earth happened?
Last night, he left behind all the contracts and invoices that he stole before
He's at the police station right now, confessing to the Mayor's corruption.
Aren't these the documents we handed over to the real estate agent?
THERE'S PROBABLY A BIG FUSS GOING ON IN TOWN NOW
What's the matter?
Kisaragi-san!
Look!
IT IS FORBIDDEN FOR A GOD TO REVEAL THEIR FORM TO HUMANS,
NO MATTER WHAT THE REASON IS.
HOWEVER, IN THIS ERA,
IT MIGHT NOT BE SO BAD TO REVEAL YOUR FORM SOMETIMES

harp
harp

WILL I BE LIKE YOU ONE DAY TOO?
INSTEAD OF BEING LIKE ME,
YOU SHOULD BE YOURSELF
AND FACE THINGS THE WAY YOU THINK YOU SHOULD.

I'll be waiting to hear your thoughts.